

## IMPRESSIONS FROM GERMANY.

Those who have been to Germany during the last few years will not be surprised that Miss Mason's work is received with so much understanding and appreciation, especially if they have had the good fortune to meet modern thoughtful German women, eager to accept vigorous living ideas on education or any other life problem. There is in them a great stirring and striving towards a freer, deeper development of their own and their children's personality; it may carry away some unbalanced and superficial spirits to exaggeration, but on the whole it makes for a sane and balanced outlook on life.

I stayed a few weeks lately with friends in Heidelberg and met several people interested in the P.N.E.U., though unfortunately I just missed Dr. Kirchner. There is just now great activity among those interested in women's rights (not those of the shrieky sisterhood) and in educational questions. German home politics appear to offer a favourable occasion for urging a rational system of higher education for girls and women, co-education in the gymnasiums, &c.; and it will be interesting to watch the success of the movement.

My stay was very short, but it gave me the chance of getting to know something of congenial modern literature; and though my impressions were necessarily hasty and incomplete, I may be able to suggest some reading to those who want to keep up their German, and at the same time to study some of the best authors of the day. One of the first books I should suggest would be "*Erinnerungen von Ludolf Urslen Sem Jüngerem*," by Ricarda Huch. An excellent novel full of good character study, but with too much thoughtful consideration of various problems to be easy reading to anyone but a fairly good German scholar.

By the same author I have on my list—

"Der Kampf ü Rom" and "Die Romantik."

"Ruth," a tale, Andreas-Salomé Lou.

"Reinen Herzens Schuldig" and "Das Sommer buch,"  
Helene Böhlau.

"Alexander in Babylon," Wassermann.

"Ingeborg," Kellermann.

"Der Letzte Kampf," Otto Runk.

For more solid reading:

"Das Erlebnis und die Dichtung," Dilthey.

"Kant und Goethe," Simmel.

"Frau und Mutter in der Rechtsentwicklung," Maria-  
anne Weber, (very solid).

For a good magazine I should suggest—

"Neue Deutsche Rundschau."

I have kept back one author till the last, for he stands apart as a great master of style in the present day.

There is a little volume called "Tristan," which contains six sketches by Thomas Mann, written with an extraordinary delicacy and precision of touch, and in which a mass of detail is worked in with the strongest feeling for proportion and balance.

Thomas Mann's prose is always wonderful, but from time to time the rhythm becomes penetratingly expressive of the emotions or passions suggested by the actual words. The 2nd Novelle, which gives the title to the book, was read aloud to us in Heidelberg by a young poet, who is himself a keen stylist, and he was able to make us feel very strongly the supple rhythm and easy musical flow of words.

Thomas Mann's great masterpiece, however, is a big novel called "Buddenbrooks," which traces, I think, the rise and fall of one family through different generations with great psychological insight. I have not yet read all the books on my list, but I have read enough to get the flavour of my authors, and to want to read them more thoroughly.

While I am talking about style, I should like to mention the translations of Baudelaire's Poems by Stephan Georg, which certainly do not lose in the translating, and seem to gather new force and charm in the process.

I shall be so glad if other people give some suggestions on German literature, for I feel how incomplete and one-sided my own acquaintance is with it.

G. M. B.